



Second Quarter 2002  
California National Guard  
Counterdrug Task Force

## Inside This Issue

- 2** CSM Message
- 3** DDR Homecoming
- 3** Link Of The Quarter
- 4** THA Awarded
- 5** On The Web
- 5** Safety Message
- 6** TSH Awarded
- 7** FORSCOM Commander  
Tours Border
- 8** DDR Commander  
Accepts New Position

Counterdrug Headquarters  
Sacramento, CA

### Public Affairs Note:

For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published.

California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

# The Informer

## Message from HQ

COL William H. Wade II  
CDTF Commander

### NEW TIMES-NEW CHALLENGES

September 11, 2001 has had a profound effect on everything – we as Americans – hold dear and believe in. Our very way of life, daily routine, and things we take for granted have been seriously impacted by the forces of evil. As a result, how we conduct our business – from going to school, traveling, or attending large public events or gatherings – is no longer a freedom that can be guaranteed safe or risk free. Likewise, our economy has been severely strained and tested.

Concurrently, the CD program was a victim of the events of September 11. In a rush to establish the elements of Homeland Security – the likes of which have not been seen since World War II – DOD was searching for funding in an already

overburdened budget. Needless to say, CD was one of the bill payers. The loss of over \$2 million in our budget necessitated cutbacks in the force. Almost without exception, layoffs were avoided by cutting back on personnel through retirements, voluntary transfers, and numerous federal mobilizations.

I applaud your cooperation and sacrifices and ask you to remain patient as we work through these difficult times. I will do everything within my power to seek funding to rebuild the force and reemploy the maximum number of people possible.



**“No place is inaccessible to CD personnel searching for drugs.”**

Photo courtesy of TWO.

# CSM's Message

By CSM Bill Lewellen  
CDTF Command Sergeant Major

As we all know the CDTF funding shortage for this year has been a concern for all of us. I want to assure you that the CDTF commander is doing everything possible to acquire more funding for next year and the subsequent year to follow. But more important, an initiative needs to be established to stabilize future funding for CD so we know what to plan for on a year-to-year basis.

As I have mentioned before, I encourage all of you to take the opportunity while with CD to work towards a better education, and at the same time, always try and find a better and more stable employment. Never forget the CDTF is based on yearly funding.

The Operation Ready Family program sponsors a California National Guard (CNG) Youth Symposium for children between the ages of 14 and 18. I encourage all CD members with children in this age bracket, and who might be interested, to contact your team's Ready Family Support member to acquire more information.

There have been a few negative reports towards the CNG in the news lately. I am here to tell you that all of you do an excellent job and that I am extremely proud of each and every one of you. One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is being able to travel to the various teams and meet the people who make this program great. I am genuinely appreciative of your professional attitude and hard work in all that you do. We are a better America for what you are accomplishing. I recently spoke

with State Command Sergeant Major for California, CSM Harry J. Courtney. He asked me to convey his gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and commitment put forth by the members of the CDTF.

The commander is in the process of finalizing the over-grade policy as it relates to an approved TDA (Table of Distribution and Allowances). I assure you that his first concern is trying to be fair and equitable to all soldiers and airmen within the program regardless of rank.

During the Horizon Conference Maj. Gen. Robert Barrow spoke to the command group, team commanders and first sergeants. He put special emphasis on the following six areas:

- **Standards of Conduct** (We must set the example)
- **Team Work** (Results are more achievable)
- **Mentoring** (Need to improve)
- **Expert Resource Management** (Seek out subject matter experts, use resources wisely)
- **Communication** (Keep information flowing up and down the chain)
- **Military Decision Making Process** (Do not leave out steps in the process).

I want to emphasize how important it is that **ALL** soldiers and airmen work towards these six goals when performing our mission.

***Continue to Look Forward-  
Plan Backwards-Be Safe***

## Congratulations to Team DDR!

**DDR recently added another plaque to their wall of fame in the headquarters building. This one comes courtesy of the Police Activities League (PAL) for their support to Beach Play Day. DDR members provided tents and personnel for the annual event.**



# DDR Parents night is a homecoming

*Story and photo by  
SGT Joseph C. B.  
CDTF Public Affairs NCOIC*

LA HABRA, Calif. — A recent Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) mission to Our Lady of Guadalupe School proved to be something special for at least one member of the DDR team that conducted it. For 1LT Jeffery M., the DDR Region 3 Officer in Charge, it was like coming home.

Prior to joining the California National Guard's DDR team in 1999, he was a science teacher and later took on additional duties as the vice-principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe School from the fall of 1995 until the end of the 1999 school year.

He says the biggest motivator for him to change professions was the ability to reach and influence more teens through the DDR program.

Although DDR's focus remains geared toward the education of the youth themselves, there is a growing movement towards reaching the adults that are the most influential in their lives. Parents can be a "force multiplier" in DDR's efforts to educate and influence youth.

Called Parent's Night, these missions are aimed at educating the parents on the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco usage. The parents, in turn, take the message home to their children.

Parents are also taught how to identify signs that their children may be using or in danger of using illicit or harmful substances.

To this end, DDR uses movies, handouts and guest speakers from several law enforcement agencies to relate their real world experiences regarding the dangers associated with drug usage and its signs. A heavy emphasis is placed on the rising use of so called 'club drugs' such as methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), or ecstasy, Rohypnol (Roofies), Gammahydroxybutyrate (GHB), also known as "the rape drug," Ketamine and Lysergic-acid Diethylamide (LSD).

As a science teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe, he began using the title of doctor to address his students. At the beginning of each new school year he would have his students rise and tell him whether they were going to be a doctor of



medicine or science. From that point forward he would speak to them as if they were doctors.

"I wanted to inspire them, to give them the idea that they could (become doctors)," he said.

He says he would like to go back to teaching after his retirement from the military. He hopes to obtain his masters degree in education while on active duty through the University of Phoenix's on-line program.

DDR has several more Parents' Nights scheduled throughout the state. For more information on the program, call DDR at (916) 854-3309.

## Link of the quarter

Having trouble losing that extra pound or two? Worried that your diet of fast food burgers and fries isn't as healthy as the commercials say? Or maybe you need to get in shape for that upcoming P.T. test. Here is a website that may

be able to help you. It's called HOOAH 4 Health, and as you can probably tell by the name it's designed with the GI in mind.

Unlike other health-related web sites, this one is specifically designed to address the force health protection and readiness requirements of the ARMY, particularly its Reserve Compo-

ment. Citizen soldiers juggle many different balls everyday, but they cannot afford to drop the one ball that allows them to live a healthier, less stressful life.

Check it out at:  
<http://hooah4health.com>



# THA awarded for antidrug presentations

By Capt Denise Varner  
129th Rescue Wing  
Public Affairs Officer

The Mayor of Santa Clara, Judy Nadler, presented California's Public Safety Provider Commendation to members of THA for their program designed to keep children in school, off drugs and away from violence.

THA, part of the 129th Rescue Squadron, was recognized for its Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program events conducted in conjunction with the Santa Clara County Sheriffs Office Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

The aircrew fly the HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter to schools and give presentations to students in Santa Clara and throughout the state.

The helicopter landings at the schools add excitement and interest to the message the crew presents.

"It's the best attention getter for the children," THA commander, Capt Tom R. said.

"We talk about our jobs in the Guard and tie it into the D.A.R.E. message of staying in school and away from drugs so they can have the same opportunities to pursue their goals and dreams."

THA visits about 25 schools annually in addition to conducting its state and federal missions.

Their participation in D.A.R.E. is in conjunction with the National Guard's community mission of "adding value" to America. The



THA members stand beside their HH-60 Pavehawk during one of their frequent DDR missions.

team takes pride in adding value on local levels.

"The airmen that fly these missions live in the same communities and have kids that go to these schools," he said.

Its federal mission is to provide wartime combat search and rescue and its state mission is to respond to state emergencies, to include recovery of natural disasters.

***"It's great that we can do something good to impact the futures of our own neighborhoods."***

*Capt Tom R.*

"It's great that we can do something good to impact the futures of our own neighborhoods."

The 129th Rescue Wing, with its Pavehawks, MC-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, pararescue specialists and support personnel, routinely deploy to areas throughout the world in support of ongoing military operations.

In addition to the DDR support THA provides various methods for remote insertion and extraction, such as hoisting and rappelling, and it provides training to law enforcement personnel on the use of these devices. THA aircrews are highly trained in both day and night operations, and all crew members are qualified in Night Vision Goggle (NVG) operations.

# On The Web

By SGT Joseph C. B.  
CDTF Public Affairs NCOIC

As a parent, it occurred to me that my children will soon be reaching an age where drug, alcohol and tobacco could play a part in their everyday life. I had to ask myself how I would handle the situation. Truth is, I had no idea. It seemed so far away just a few years ago when my biggest problem was getting my daughter to sleep in her own bed.

Although I shouldn't have to worry about this for a few more years, many of the soldiers and airmen in the task force already have children that are in their teen years. Some of you have probably already had to deal with a situation involving drugs, alcohol or tobacco use.

On a recent visit to the Navy drug and alcohol abuse prevention website I found the following tips on how to talk to young adults about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

- Keep the lines of communication open. Be a good listener and hear what your child is saying and feeling.
- Take a "no use" stand against alcohol and other drug use. Educate yourself and your children about the physical effects and risks of alcohol and other drug use and how a person can become addicted.
- Network with other parents who share your "no unlawful use" stance to plan activities. Discuss curfews, supervision, etc.
- Discuss topics like alcohol and other drug use in a caring and sharing atmosphere without moralizing or shaming your child.
- Be the authority in your home. Do not be afraid of temporarily losing the affection of your child, and do not absorb the guilt associated with the child's errors in judgment.
- Be a positive role model for your child. Have fun as a family without alcohol.
- Know your child's friends and activities and become involved by supervising their activities.
- Educate your child about how to resist peer pressure. Even in kindergarten there are situations that can help teach your child to say "no."
- Get your child involved in healthy activities, e.g., clubs, sports, hobbies. Talk about ways to have fun without alcohol and other drugs.
- Know the name of your child's school counselor and how to contact him or her.
- Set and consistently enforce clear standards of behavior and consequences that you are willing and able to enforce, e.g., loss of privileges.

For more information, visit the Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention website at:  
<http://navdweb.spawar.navy.mil>

## Safety Through Communications

By CW5 Roy L.  
CDTF Safety Officer

GSA vehicle accidents have increased 400% from this time last year. This statistic is applicable for the Active Army as well at the California National Guard. POV accidents are still our number one killer and injury producer of National Guard personnel.

You asked what are the causes of these accidents?

Speed, fatigue and situational awareness.

The majority of the fatalities and major injuries are the result of not wearing seat belts and of course motorcycles.

**Speed:** Too fast for conditions. The posted speed limit on roadways in America is predicated on surveys conducted by competent people who determine what the average person in the average vehicle

can handle on the particular roadway in normal driving conditions.

When the road gets wet, visibility is reduced, or traffic gets heavy, the driver is responsible for slowing to a prudent speed for the existing conditions.

**Fatigue:** Time management/rest. AR 385-55 states Army

**Turn to SAFETY on page 6**

# TSH Receives Customs Unit Citation

Story and photo by  
SGT Joseph C. B.  
CDTF Public Affairs NCOIC

Ten members of the NISCO Detachment of TSH received the U.S. Customs Service (USCS) Unit Citation award for their assistance in a record-breaking seizure, which netted more than 2 million pills of the popular drug methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

Originating in Korea, an Air France Boeing 747 containing the shipment of the drug was intercepted at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) by a joint task force of U.S. Customs Service Inspectors, Drug Enforcement Agency, Narcotics Enforcement Agency, Food and Drug Administration, and TSH members.

USCS received information about the coming shipment through an extensive undercover operation. Although they knew it was coming, they didn't know when or where.

With only a shipping freight number to work with, the task force began the process of



A TSH member receives the Customs Unit Citation from USCS Commissioner Robert C. Bonner.

searching every air freighter from Korea entering the U.S. through LAX.

Their patience and hard work paid off on July 22, 2000 when a consignment shipment containing the illegal drug was found on an Air France flight landing at LAX.

The commissioner of the USCS, Robert C. Bonner, was

on hand to personally present members of TSH with the prestigious award.

"This could be the largest seizure of ecstasy in the nations history," said Bonner during the award ceremony.

He went on to thank all the agencies involved for their hard work and dedication to the war on drugs.

## ***SAFETY from page 5***

personnel will not operate a military vehicle when his or her duty has exceeded 12 hours. The regulation also states the individual will be given 8 hours of rest before resuming driving duties.

It is incumbent upon leaders to keep rest periods in mind when planning pre- and post-mission planning.

The mission is not concluded until all personnel are safely back at home station.

### **Situational Awareness:**

This is that constant risk assessment you do while you drive. I call it the "What Could go Wrong" exercise. Will the person you see in the rear view mirror approaching at MACH II run into you? Do you have an escape route? Do you maintain the 3-second interval behind the vehicle you are following so you have that escape route?

Cell Phones in GSA vehicles.

The GSA is currently researching the use of cell phones in their vehicles. Currently you are required to comply with state law.

A decision of "hands free" use or "no use" may be on the horizon.

Currently, TME has a policy of no cell phone use while operating vehicles provided by that team.

The most prudent way to use cell phones is still to pull to the side of the road and complete the call.



# FORSCOM Commander tours border

Story by MAJ Stan Zezotarski  
OTAG PAO  
Photo by MAJ Kim Oliver  
CDTF PAO

April 16, 2002 was an historic day for California when Forces Command (FORSCOM) Commander GEN Larry Ellis visited Title 10 and Title 32 forces on the Southwest Border to emphasize the importance of their mission.

"This war on terrorism will be a long one," Ellis said. "One of the aspects of this war is the security of our borders and the people who cross them. I appreciate the role the California National Guard is playing to help deter any threats that may happen along our borders."

Ellis' visit was the second historical visit by a senior-ranking army general in the last four years. In 1998, GEN Dennis Reimer visited California's 40th Infantry Division at Camp Roberts, California to observe the Division's readiness and ability to respond to state missions. His visit turned the Division's fortunes around as Reimer agreed with former 40th Infantry Division Commander Maj Gen Edmund Zysk's assessment that the Division needed more operational funding to remain mission ready. A funding infusion soon followed the visit as well as several other changes that streamlined Army and Army National Guard relations.

The same prospects appeared imminent when Ellis visited California. MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr., the adjutant general, and BG Dennis Kenneally, commander of the California



GEN Larry R. Ellis, MG Paul D. Monroe and BG Dennis M. Kenneally receive a briefing from a Border Patrol agent and CDTF personnel.

Army National Guard, discussed Homeland Security and several other issues with Ellis—including expanded opportunities for Guardsmen to attend schools as events of post September 11th begin stabilizing. Ellis' genuine interest, his quick wit, and his sense of humor quickly disarmed the formal regiment that often creates a communication barrier between soldiers and generals. Soldiers felt at ease with the general as they shared their knowledge, concerns, and questions about the duration of the mission.

"I've learned an enormous amount from this trip," Ellis said. "I came here to learn what soldiers are doing on the border, and I did."

Ellis spent the entire day talking with soldiers and traveling the border. His tour included an aerial overflight of the border from the San Diego coastline, inland 35 miles and return. From

the helicopter, Ellis viewed Smuggler's Gulch, Spring Canyon, and other crevices and ravines that smugglers and potential terrorists can use. He saw first hand how the terrain can be unforgiving to intruders and how the California National Guard has used it to its advantage over the years to detour, block, and delay drug smugglers.

Ellis also visited TME projects and observed soldiers at the port of entry at San Ysidro and, witnessed the seizure of methamphetamine and the discovery of four illegal immigrants stuffed inside a car trunk.

"This is a good operation," the general said at one point during the tour, "We can make the border defensible. (The soldiers here) are adding to the security of the United States."

# DDR Commander accepts position in D.C.

*By TSgt Harjindar T.  
DDR Special Projects Manager*

Joseph H. went to basic training (that's right he was enlisted first), with the United States Air Force in March of 1977 at age 19. After graduating, he began Pararescue Jumper training, which consisted of almost a dozen schools, that when mixed together, make you a Pararescue Jumper (PJ).

After being enlisted for 8 years and reaching the rank of Technical Sergeant (E-6), he decided he wanted to be a helicopter pilot and after attending the Academy of Military

Science became a second lieutenant, which was followed by 1½ years of pilot training. He has since flown more than 20 combat missions and has been both a flight commander and an air/sea rescue instructor helicopter pilot.

He joined the California Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) in 1998 as the operations officer. In 1999 he became the Drug Demand Reduction Commander (DDRC), and brought a sense of direction, passion, and focus to DDR. To him, a multidirectional approach to the drug problem was critical, for as important as

interdiction may be, demand reduction has a much more fundamental and longer lasting impact on youth. He could often be heard to say, "No matter how many drugs you take off the streets, there never seems to be a shortage." He also believed DDR should not target just one age, and encouraged support of missions to educate through all ages – including parents.

One project he was most passionate about, was the parent education nights, a

program he piloted. He felt the best way to reach youth was through the education of their parents on the problems associated with, and the pervasiveness, of drugs today. He believed well-informed and involved parents were the key to the prevention of illicit drug use among their own kids.

Another project that he actively participated in was education of the public on the impact of Gammahydroxybutyrate (GHB) a drug that is commonly abused at rave parties and is highly addictive.

He was not the touchy-feely, social-worker type and that was evident in his most recent program – the DDR High Adventure Camps.

The High Adventure Camp project is designed to show the youths just what they can accomplish with hard work and effort during overnight camping trips.

He believed DDR was capable of doing great things and he was right. Lt Col Joe H. is a leader that both airmen and soldiers would, and have been, proud to follow.

He is committed to truth, honesty, and hard work, all things that make a great leader. In the time that he was with DDR, he brought a new respect to what demand reduction is all about, and that with hard work, almost anything is possible.

His leadership was one of a kind and will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the members of the Counterdrug Task Force we wish him the best.

